

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LAGOS 09621 241621Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----035416 241621Z /43

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3190
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LAGOS 9621

EXDIS

FROM MOOSE AND MCHENRY
FROM USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARMED FORCES

REF: (A) STATE 201250, (B) PRETORIA 4247

1. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT'S POSITION THAT WE SHOULD NOT
PROVIDE THE SOUTH AFRICANS WITH THE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION
THEY HAVE REQUESTED. AND WE CONCUR WITH THE REASONING EXPRESSED
IN PARAGRAPH ONE OF REFTTEL A.

2. DEPARTMENT AND PRETORIA MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER LETTING
SADF KNOW, IN ADDITION TO POINTS MADE IN REFTTEL A, THAT:

A) THE U.S. DOES NOT AGREE WITH MUCH OF THEIR ASSESSMENT OF
THE POLITICAL CONDITIONS THAT EXIST NOW OR WILL OBTAIN IN
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SOUTHERN AFRICA (E.G. THAT RHODESIA IS BOUND TO BECOME
"MILITANTLY COMMUNIST").

B) MOREOVER, WE DISAGREE THAT THE CUBANS AND ANGOLANS NECESSARILY
POSE A DIRECT MILITARY THREAT TO NAMIBIA. THERE ARE COGENT
INTERNATIONAL REASONS THAT MILITATE AGAINST THEIR INTERVENING
MILITARILY IN AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA.

C) A THREAT AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE (WHEN THE MPLA AND

CUBA MIGHT HAVE THINGS UNDER CONTROL IN ANGOLA AND BE IN A POSITION TO COMMIT TROOPS TO A NEW VENTURE) WOULD BECOME A REALITY ONLY IF SOUTH AFRICA MISGUIDEDLY IMPOSED AN INTERNAL SOLUTION WHICH THE AFRICAN STATES WOULD REJECT.

D) THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEAVY EXPENDITURES FOR MILITARY BASE INFRA-STRUCTURE SEEMS BASED ON THEIR ASSUMPTION THAT THE NEW NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT WILL REQUEST SOUTH AFRICA'S ASSISTANCE FOR NAMIBIA'S DEFENSE. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS ASSUMPTION IS HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE. A MAJORITY-RULED NAMIBIA WOULD BE MOST UNLIKELY TO BE MILITANTLY HOSTILE TO SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, IT IS EQUALLY UNLIKELY (EXCEPT IN THE EVENT OF AN INTERNAL SOLUTION) TO DESTROY ITS STANDING AS AN INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATE BY REQUESTING SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE.
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